

**AGENDA**  
**SUISUN MARSH TECHCOMM MEETING**

DWR, Environmental Services Office, Large Conference Room  
9:30 am, April 27, 2000

**ADMINISTRATION**

1. Agenda Changes, Announcements, and Other Business
2. January 27, 2000 Summary
3. Next meeting: 9:30 am, Thursday, July 27, 2000  
DWR, Environmental Services Office,  
Large Conference Room

**DWR REPORT**

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| 4. Water Quality Monitoring/SMSCG Ops.     | Liz Cook         |
| 5. SMSCG Modification test                 | Leslie Millett   |
| 7. SMPA ECAT/Amendment Three               | Kamyar Guivetchi |
| 7. CALFED Suisun Marsh Levee Subteam       | Chris Enright    |
| 8. Suisun Ecological Workgroup             | Eliza Sater      |
| 9. Morrow Island Fish Screen Project       | Mike Floyd       |
| 10. Preparation for 2000 Vegetation Survey | Cassandra Enos   |

**DFG REPORT**

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| 11. Island Slough Monitoring Plan               | Laurie Barthman Thompson |
| 12. Salt Marsh Harvest Mouse Monitoring Program | Laurie Barthman Thompson |

**SRCD REPORT**

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| 13. Renewal of USACE Regional General Permit | Steve Chappell |
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**OTHER BUSINESS**

**MEETING SUMMARY  
SUISUN MARSH TECHCOMM MEETING  
January 27, 2000**

DWR, Environmental Services Office, Large Conference Room

**ATTENDEES**

Dennis Becker, DFG	Terri Gaines, DWR
Stephen Berger, RWQCB	Marla Macoubrie, USFWS
Steven Chappell, SRCD	Leslie Millett, DWR
Liz Cook, DWR	Kamyar Guivetchi, DWR
Kate le, DWR	Laurie Barthman Thompson, DFG
Chris Enright, DWR	Brad Tom, DWR
Mike Floyd, DWR	Dawn Friend, DWR
Carissa Dunn, USBR	Callie Harrison, DWR

**ADMINISTRATION**

**Item 1 – Agenda Changes and Announcements**

Kamyar Guivetchi will give the update on Item 9 for Eliza Sater. Callie Harrison, the new engineer with Suisun Marsh Planning, was introduced. Carissa Dunn of the USBR has taken over Will Keck's involvement in Suisun Marsh projects.

**Item 2 – January 27, 2000 Meeting Summary**

The discussion about how the meeting minutes are put together will continue.

**Item 3 - Next TECHCOMM Meeting**

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, July 27, 2000 at 9:30 am, DWR Central District Large Conference Room.

**DWR REPORT**

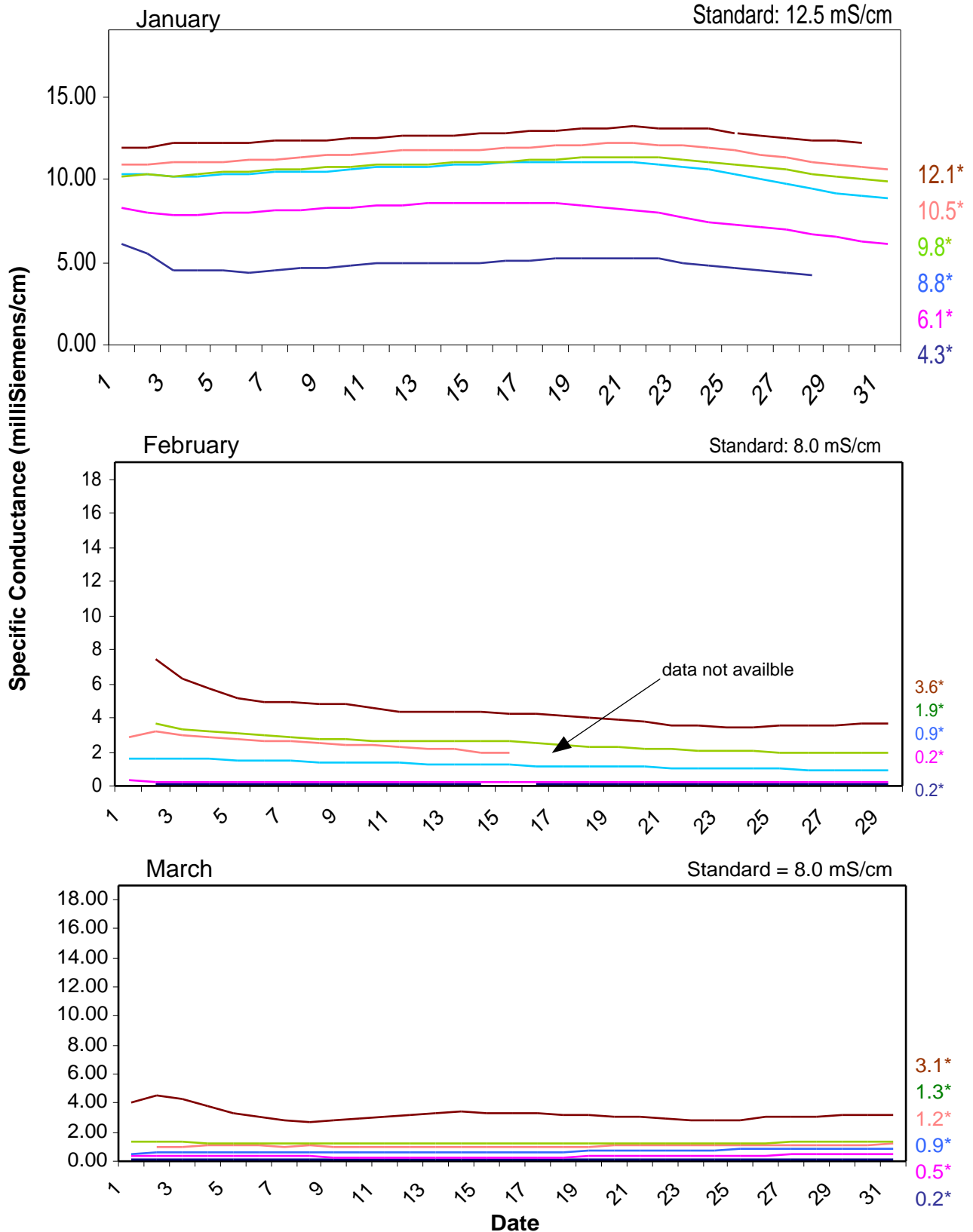
**Item 4. Water Quality Monitoring/SMSCG Ops.**

Liz Cook:

Salinity standards were met at all compliance monitoring stations for the period October through December 1999.

# Progressive Mean of Specific Conductance at High Tide for Suisun Marsh Compliance Stations and the Morrow Island Monitoring Station

Collinsville (C-2)      National Steel (S-64)      Beldons (S-49)  
 Sunrise Club (S-21)      Volanti (S-42)      Morrow Island (S-35)



\* = monthly mean specific electrical conductance at high tide.

Salinity levels were mostly a function of Delta outflow and control gate operations. Delta outflow, however, was substantially less than the same period last year resulting in higher overall salinity levels throughout the Marsh.

The control gates were operated with the original flashboards from September 27 through October 13, 1999. From October 15 through November 4, 1999 the gates were left open with the flashboards out. From November 5 through December 9, 1999 the gates were operated with the modified flashboards in place and from December 10 through December 31, 1999 they were left open with the modified flashboards in.

Liz distributed a one page graphical summary of salinity conditions in the Marsh for months October, November and December, entitled "Progressive Mean of Specific Conductance at High Tide for Suisun Marsh Compliance Monitoring Stations".

#### **Item 5 – SWRCB D-1641**

Kamyar Guivetchi:

Kamyar distributed a copy of the State Water Resources Control Board's Water Right Decision 1641. This Decision replaces the interim D-1485 Decisions 95-6 and 98-9. Some of the items relevant to the Suisun Marsh are:

- Responsibility for meeting salinity objectives lies with DWR and USBR.
- If a standard is breached when the control gates are operated fully, it will no longer be considered a violation, but a report would be filed.
- No narrative standard has been prescribed pending the upcoming triennial review.
- DWR will submit an annual report in September of each year rather than the end of the calendar year (consistent with Control Season).

Steve Chappell added that he testified at the Board hearings and requested on behalf of the SRCD that a decision be delayed until the SMPA Amendment 3 has been approved. The Board denied this request. DFG suggested incorporating certain aspects of the SMPA into interim D-1641, but this was also denied.

#### **Item 6 – SMSCG Modification Test**

Leslie Millett:

George Edwards recently presented preliminary results from 1998 and 1999 SMSCG salmon passage studies to the SMSCG Steering Group. The results indicate that the modified flashboards are not improving passage of adults through the structure. In both years, the numbers that passed were lowest and the time it

took salmon to pass was highest with the slots in place. The following results are based on 66 fish being tagged for each of the 3 study phases:

- regular flashboards, full bore operation, boat lock operating (full bore),
- modified flashboards, full bore operation, boat lock operating (slots), and
- flashboards out of the water, no gate operation, boat lock operating (fully open).

In 1998, there was a significant difference in numbers that passed between fully open and slot phase (with slots having the lower passage numbers). Passage times for modified flashboards were significantly different from both the open and full bore phases in 1998 (ie. passage time for slots was higher than in full bore and fully open phases). In 1999 there was a significant difference in the numbers that passed between the modified and fully open phase but there was no statistical difference in passage times between modified and either of the other two phases.

The results from the 1998 and 1999 studies also showed no significant difference between full bore phase and the fully open phase in passage time or numbers that passed. These results are different from what was found in 1993. In 1993, there was a significant difference between the fully open phase and the full bore phase in passage time and numbers that passed. In 1994, the differences were not statistically significant. However, the trend of decreasing passage numbers and increasing passage time with full bore phase was statistically significant.

We do not why there is a difference in the results between years 1998/99 and 1993/94. NMFS has not provided any feedback to the Steering Group on the management significance of no difference between full bore and fully open phases in 1998 and 1999.

The SMSCG Steering Group Data Analysis Team is developing a set of options to pursue for a study this fall. The ACOE has suggested we consider off site mitigation. The Group will meet again on March 8 and plan to make a decision on what to do at that time.

### **Item 7 – SMPA ECAT/Amendment Three**

Terri Gaines:

The Suisun Marsh Preservation Agreement (SMPA) ECAT has been meeting monthly. Staff from Department of Water Resources, US Bureau of Reclamation, California Department of Fish and Game (DFG), Grizzly Island and DFG Bay Delta, US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFW), and Suisun Resource Conservation District (SRCD) participated. Items that have been discussed during the last several months include alternative to construction of the MIDS fish screen, status of the joint

formal consultation with the USFW for Amendment Three to the SMPA and SRCD permit renewal, monitoring efforts in Suisun Marsh, and a timeline for ECAT responsibilities during the year 2000. During the January meeting, Kari Lewis of the DFG Wildlife Habitat and Data Analysis Branch gave a detailed presentation on survey protocol for the marsh-wide vegetation survey conducted during summer 1999. Her data can be used for the GIS base map the Suisun Marsh Branch hopes to develop. ECAT has a very full plate and a very ambitious timeline for the year 2000.

DWR and USBR are in formal consultation with the USFW for Amendment Three to the SMPA. We expect a draft Biological Opinion on February 17, 2000. We hope that it won't take too much time to get from the draft Opinion to the final Opinion stage. Once we get a final Biological Opinion, the four SMPA parties can finalize the Initial Study and Environmental Analysis to meet our CEQA and NEPA requirements, and finalize Amendment Three.

#### **Item 8 – CALFED Suisun Marsh Levee Subteam**

Chris Enright:

The CALFED Suisun Marsh Levee Investigation Team is tasked with recommending the level of CALFED involvement with Suisun Marsh levees. The Team has completed modeling studies which suggest that maintenance of Suisun Marsh levees is essential for system wide water quality control. Further, judicious placement and sizing of small levee breaches can provide water quality benefits along with opportunities for Marsh restoration. The team is now assessing the engineering costs and biological benefits of restoration projects in various areas of the Marsh. The team has scheduled a Marsh landowner outreach meeting for March 6, 2000 in Fairfield. CALFED and Team staff will present investigation results to date, and the basic CALFED concept of trading levee maintenance for about 7000 acres of willing seller restoration projects in the Marsh.

#### **Item 9 – Suisun Ecological Workgroup**

Kamyar Guivetchi (for Eliza Sater):

The SEW final report is nearing completion. All reports except for the Wildlife Subcommittee's have been submitted. Once the Wildlife Subcommittee report is complete, the draft report will be finalized and submitted to IEP for review. Following this review and subsequent revision, the final report will be submitted to the SWRCB.

#### **Item 10 – Morrow Island Fish Screen Project**

Mike Floyd:

Mike Floyd and Kamyar Guivetchi gave a brief discussion on the evaluation of fish protection alternatives for the Morrow Island Distribution System. The alternatives discussed included the presently proposed inclined plate screen for the MIDS intake, operation of the MIDS as an open system, operation as a drain-only system with mobile pumps, and use of pumps to augment flow at the MIDS intake.

Staff are working on a report that will provide a description of each identified alternative, as well as a preliminary evaluation of each alternative. The report is expected to be completed in draft form during February 2000.

## **DFG REPORT**

### **Item 11 – Island Slough Monitoring Plan**

Laurie Barthman Thompson:  
(no summary submitted)

### **Item 12 – Update Letter to USFWS**

Laurie Barthman Thompson (for Laurie Briden):  
(no summary submitted)

### **Item 13 – Suisun Marsh Vegetation Survey**

Laurie Barthman Thompson:  
(no summary submitted)

Terri Gaines mentioned that the Suisun Marsh Branch will be giving a presentation on the Suisun Marsh at a breakout session at Asilomar during the IEP Workshop this year.

## **SRCD REPORT**

### **Item 14 – Renewal of USACE Regional General Permit**

Steve Chapell:  
(no summary submitted)

Steven Berger of the Regional Water Quality Control Board informed the group that as of January 1, 2000, the Control Board has enforcement ability for any permit violation. This applies to old as well as new permits.